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PAPAL MISSION CONTINUES; SAMORE DEPARTS FOR CHILE

Samore Briefed at Foreign Ministry

PY281128Y Buenos Aires Radio Belgrano in Spanish 0130 GMT 28 Dec 78 PY

[Excerpts] Cardinal Samore attended an informational meeting today at the Foreign Ministry. Several qualified Argentine experts briefed Cardinal Samore and his advisers, Fathers Cavalli and Sainz Munoz, on all data and evidence supporting the just Argentine claim.

The papal envoy was carrying a thick 120-page dossier on the historical background of the conflict, a summary of the treaties signed by the two countries, a summary of the actions carried out by the two joint commissions, a final section outlining the Argentine position, and annexes of notes exchanged between the presidents and foreign ministers of the two countries.

Although there is no official information about the issues discussed at the meeting, a diplomatic spokesman reported that, citing historical data, Argentine experts emphasized the clear expansionist objective of the Chileans and the constant conciliatory attitude observed by Argentina throughout nearly 100 years.

Mention was made in this respect of the amendment to the 1826 constitution, which established that the southern border is the Andes Mountains as far as Cape Horn, and the founding in 1843 under Bulnes' presidency of a fort where the city of Punta Arenas is located today on the Strait of Magellan.

It was also reportedly mentioned that in 1865, while Argentina was at war with Paraguay, Chile tried to push its border eastward, that public statements were made by Chilean officials in 1876 and 1882 claiming that Chile owns the Argentine Patagonia region as far as Rio Gallegos, and that Chile attempted in 1973 to move forward up to the Santa Cruz River.

Also detailed were other violations made by Chile within the framework of the now stagnated negotiations carried out pursuant to the Act of Puerto Montt, and the third stage, which Chile refuses to discuss--that is, the final demarcation in the southern region.

Also detailed were all illegal actions carried out by Chile, including the appointment of sea prefects [alcalde de mar] in the disputed islands before Argentina conveyed its position on the British decision, and the establishment of the disputed straight base lines.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman also said that during the briefing, Cardinal Samore demonstrated an excellent attitude, expressing interest in every detail, and that a fluid dialog took place, during which it became evident that both the papal envoy and his advisers are thoroughly informed on Latin American problems, especially the Beagle conflict.

Samore: Mission Going Well

PY281238Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1215 GMT 28 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Dec (TELAM)--Pope John Paul II's special envoy, Cardinal Antonio Samore, has said that "a war must be avoided at any cost not only for the good of Argentina and Chile, but also for the good of the church and the entire world. Therefore we must achieve peace."

The cardinal also said that "a conflict would have serious repercussions." He added: "I do not believe that peace is an impossible goal. The mission I have been entrusted with is difficult but I am receiving all kinds of information regarding the problem." He also said: "I hope that with the good will of the two parties and God's help, peace will be achieved. My mission is going well." Asked his impression of the welcome given him by the Argentine people and the national government, the pope's envoy said: "I can only describe it with one word: Magnificent. Really, it could not have been better."

Cardinal Samore's remarks were published by the morning newspaper CONVICCION today in an article written by Esteban Bielski Villena.

Papal Envoy Departs for Santiago

PY281328Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1310 GMT 28 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Dec (NA)--Papal envoy Cardinal Antonio Samore has stated that he believes he will return to this capital to continue his mission of finding an agreement between Argentina and Chile regarding the southern border conflict. He said: "If it is necessary to return to Buenos Aires, I will return. If I must again go to Santiago, I will do so." He reiterated that his mission is only "informational" and that if there is a desire for Pope John Paul II to be the mediator in the conflict, the governments should make a "formal request."

The plane carrying Cardinal Samore left at 0955 from the military sector of the metropolitan airport.

SAMORE'S SHUTTLING BETWEEN ARGENTINA, CHILE TERMED 'PROBABLE'

PY290248Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0009 GMT 29 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Dec (NA)--Diplomatic sources disclosed that it is probable that the papal envoy, Cardinal Antonio Samore, and his assistants will travel to Buenos Aires after completing his activities in Santiago, Chile, and then return to Chile before going back to the Vatican. Warning that "the next week could be hectic," the spokesmen did not discard the possibility of trilateral meetings with representatives of Argentina, Chile and the papal envoy. They recalled that although Cardinal Samore is not a mediator, he does have sufficient power to exhaust all possibilities that could provide Pope John Paul II with the most complete information on the two countries' position in the dispute.

Finally, they emphasized that "despite the urgency of the mission entrusted to the papal envoy, no specific time limit has been fixed to accomplish it."

I CORPS COMMANDER HOPES FOR EARLY BEAGLE SOLUTION

PY281722Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1345 GMT 28 Dec 78 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 28 Dec (TELAM)--The commander of I Corps, Maj Gen Carlos G. Suarez Masson, has said that the conflict between Argentina and Chile on the southern border "should be solved soon," that "it is not wise to prolong tensions" and that "it is necessary to put a firm limit to these false claims." He added: "Of course, I know that the Argentine rights in the South Atlantic, the hold over the territorial and hereditary sea and the hold over the Antarctic are not at stake. This is not negotiable." He also said: "Regarding the other aspects, the two countries must exhaust all possibilities to find a solution. If this does not happen, it seems to me it will be a bit difficult for the church to fill this vacuum."

He said: "But this is now in the hands of Cardinal Samore, a very skillfull person for this type of problem, and we will soon know the results of his studies. I am happy to see that the pope's envoy is working with great speed. Therefore, in a few days we may have a clearer picture.

The military chief then said that although this "is not a difficult situation, it is being made difficult." He hopes that "it will end as soon as possible" without "placing at stake certain principles which we cannot surrender." He said: "I hope there will be understanding under these conditions. I will be the first to be happy."

He added: "No one hates war more than a professional soldier. I do not even think of it. I merely remain firm on what we all have to defend. I believe I interpret well the nation's feelings in this regard. I have full confidence in the people in charge of this situation and I remain confident that a solution will be found soon for the good of all of us."

GOVERNMENT ORDERS NEW RESERVE CALLUP

PY290251Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0033 GMT 29 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Dec (AFP)--It was officially reported here that the Argentine Government today ordered a new reserve callup, including those born in 1956 and 1957 who did not receive military instruction. A military spokesman said that the callup does not mean that they will now be called to serve, and added that the reserve which is out of service includes retired personnel, those who were discharged for any reason, students or alumni of military institutions and, finally, those exempted from military service.

Argentines born in 1956 and 1957 did not receive military instruction due to a measure which reduced the age limit for the enlistment of soldiers from 20 to 18 years.

LA PRENSA URGES CAUTION IN TROOP DEPLOYMENTS

PY290125Y Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 28 Dec 78 p 8 PY

[Excerpt] In our Sunday edition we commented on the pope's timely decision to name a representative to gather information about the state of the Beagle Channel conflict between our country and Chile, and now we should celebrate the wisdom of the appointment he made. At that time, we expressed our favorable opinion about the new and providential opening that was arising and pointed out that, in order to aid the success which could be expected from the mission, it would be necessary for Chile not to come up with more innovations, as it has been doing constantly, in the state of affairs now existing in the disputed area. We also advised both governments to act with serenity, and expressed our hope that their official organs and official television and radio stations would not arouse public opinion.

Today, we should add another consideration to those already mentioned--one which we believe is of particular importance and is the result of a careful analysis of the situation created. We do not need to expound on the dangers of this situation now that both countries have mobilized the larger part of their military troops, deployed corps and brought their sea and air fleets closer to the region in dispute. The tension which all this originates increases as days go by, in addition to the fact that the expenditures these actions imply weigh heavily on the economies of both nations. A border incident, which turns into a clash of weapons, can provoke a reaction which can lead to a generalized conflict. Uncertainty has taken over the public spirit of both nations; it is neither a good adviser, nor does it help to relieve fears and distrust. It will do the exact opposite. [paragraph continues]

The expectations which have arisen in business circles, industrial activities and productive activities in the field only help to aggravate the increasingly alarming picture.

As we said, for these reasons, we are forced to add another observation to what we wrote last Sunday--that is, the need for the papal envoy to speed up his actions so that he can make his report to the pope as soon as possible, so that he will be able to make his decision and then act urgently. Time and the circumstances in the Beagle Channel conflict require that no more time be lost because there is a risk, a more and more imminent one, that the situation will become uncontrollable due to the reasons we have mentioned--reasons which place pressures difficult to contain on the public opinion of both nations.

OVER 1,000 DEMONSTRATORS DEMAND WORD OF MISSING RELATIVES

PY282320Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2022 GMT 28 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Dec (AFP)--Over 1,000 relatives of missing persons gathered today in front of the government house to demand answers regarding the whereabouts of their children, answers which were promised last week by an official of the Presidency.

At first the police tried to disband the demonstrators and prevent them from reaching the government house. However, the relatives managed to get through the police barrier and meet in front of the main door to the government house, Gen Jorge Videla's place of work.

The relatives, among whom were the so-called "Mad Women of Plaza de Mayo", met as usual last Thursday and made an official of the presidency promise them an answer about the whereabouts of their relatives.

At 1530 today (1830 GMT), seven women managed to enter the government house where, as they said later, they were received by an official who told them that he would discuss the matter with Interior Minister Albano Harguindeguy tonight. The same government spokesman, who was not identified, told the relatives to return tomorrow at 1530 (1830 GMT) when he would provide them with a definite answer to their queries.

In the meantime, the relatives were still gathered on Plaza de Mayo shouting slogans such as "we want our children", and "tell us where they are".

A slight incident took place when a driver went by waving a black banner and shouting "they are all dead".

BRIEFS

NAVY PROMOTIONS--Buenos Aires, 27 Dec (TELAM)--The navy has announced the following promotions as of 31 December 1978: Rear Adm Humberto Barbuzzi to vice admiral; and Captains Francisco Barcellandi, Luis Collado, Alberto Barbich, James Whamond, Niceto Ayerra, Norberto Couto, Walter Colombo, Alfredo J.M. Fernandez, Carlos Barros, Jorge Suppicich, Rodolfo Remotti and Hugo Montagni to rear admiral. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1130 GMT 27 Dec 78 PY]

AIR FORCE PROMOTIONS--Buenos Aires, 28 Dec (NA)--The Argentine Air Force has announced the following promotions: Brigadier Generals Mario Aldo Barbuy, Hugo Nicolas Eugenio di Risio and Antonio Carlos Burgos to major general; and Colonels Ricardo Osvaldo Baluarte, Carlos Echeverria Martinez, Otto Hugo Shaub, Sigfrido Martin Plessl, Augusto Jorge Hughes, Rodolfo Aquilino Guerra, Alberto Banos, Julio Cesar Porcille, Jorge Anibal Martinez Castro and Carlos Laureano Alvarez Estrade to brigadier general. [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1225 GMT 28 Dec 78 PY]

MILITARY JUNTA LEADER PADILLA HOLDS FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE

PY280248Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Dec 78 PY

[Text] The president of the military junta, Gen David Padilla Arancibia, has reiterated the validity of human, union and political rights and reasserted that the elections will be held in July 1979, indicating that the government will be turned over to the winner of those elections.

In his first press conference after his takeover in a bloodless coup d'etat which overthrew Gen Juan Pereda Asbun on 24 November, Padilla indicated that his government is neither elitist nor generation-oriented. He answered 64 questions presented by representatives of several news media. One of these questions referred to the permanence of military units in mining centers.

[Begin Padilla recording] Well, the army and the armed forces in general are made up of Bolivians, they are led by Bolivians and therefore I believe that it is impossible to withdraw them. Besides, being the guarding institution of the fatherland, the armed forces are empowered to keep military units [illegible] place of the nation's territory. Therefore, I would like to point out that the troops which have been stationed in mining districts for the past 6 years are not a disturbing factor for the miners; on the contrary, they are the guardians of order. Besides, they have helped in the implementation of projects which benefit the population under the civic program of the armed forces. Therefore, the troops stationed in mining districts will not be withdrawn. [end recording]

Gen David Padilla Arancibia also answered questions on international issues such as the southern border conflict between Argentina and Chile. He indicated that he was deeply impressed by the Vatican's offer to send a peace mission in order to effect a proper solution for the conflict. He said that he hopes that this mission will return to the Latin American Continent the atmosphere of trust and harmony which we all desire.

With regard to the landlocked situation of the country, a problem which will be 100 years old in 1979, Padilla said: [Begin recording] In this regard Bolivia has specifically decided to tie negotiations with Chile to this country's withdrawal of all demands against Bolivia, and especially those related to territorial exchange. I believe that neither this government nor any other will be able to continue negotiations as long as Chile maintains its inflexible attitude--that is, if Chile continues its 100-year-old policy of not allowing us to negotiate as we want. Therefore, I reiterated that as long as Chile maintains its inflexible attitude, no government will be able to negotiate our return to the sea. [end recording]

Regarding the possibility of establishing diplomatic relations with the PRC, Padilla stated that his government is studying the situation and will make whatever decisions best suit national interests. He reasserted that Bolivia has always maintained a coherent international policy based on nonintervention in the domestic affairs of other countries. He added that he believes such an attitude is the best for the preservation of peace in the hemisphere.

The chief of state also discussed investment projects which have been recently studied by technical state bodies, such as the multimetallurgical plant of (Carchipampa) and others.

[Begin recording] [Padilla] Regarding the problem of (Carachipampa), I would like to point out that this project has not been approved as yet.

[Question] It has not been signed?

[Padilla] No, it has not been signed yet. We are waiting and doing everything possible to make things go the way it is most convenient for the country and for Potosi Department.

With regard to the Viru Viru project and the San Buenaventura factory, in the latter case we are making studies to see if this project will be profitable and positive. As to the Viru Viru project, which is about 3 years old, [words indistinct] the necessary financing. [end recording]

General Padilla Arancibia reasserted that his government is a transition government and the armed forces will fulfill their firm decision to hold clean, free, democratic and direct elections on 1 July 1979.

[Begin Padilla recording] I want to tell you that my government has repeatedly stated that the process launched on 24 November is aimed at giving a final solution to this problem of elections. Therefore, elections will be held on the first Sunday of July 1979 and power will be turned over on 6 August. There has been no change in this. This is the firm objective of the armed forces. [end recording]

Padilla also said that in a system of freedom of expression everyone has a right to express his opinion. Every opinion is worthy of respect and it is the duty of the government and the people to take them into account and study them calmly and logically. He indicated that he does not plan to innovate or make significant changes in the current economic and social structure of the country.

To a question about the strengthening of the armed forces, he said: [Begin recording] Every country is obliged--better to say has the duty--to protect its territorial integrity. There are rich countries and poor countries. Each army must refurbish its obsolete materiel in line with its possibilities. In our specific case it is unavoidable to make a sacrifice to provide our armed forces with sufficient arms for any contingency. We must study the possibilities of not burdening our national budget and resorting to other sources to obtain what is necessary for our armed forces. [end recording]

On the country's foreign debt, the president said that "it is within reasonable limits, and there has been a lot of exaggeration regarding this issue." He indicated that our country is receiving advice from international organizations on this subject, and these organizations agree that the debt is reasonable.

With regard to labor unions' request of a salary increase, the president of the military junta indicated that the government plans to protect the purchasing power of the salaries, but any other measure would be stimulating inflation.

On the increase of oil prices, Padilla stated that a high-ranking commission is studying this problem and appropriate measures will be taken to protect the national and people's interests. He indicated that the government is forced to implement some corrective measures due to the serious condition of the nation's economy.

Radio Panamericana questioned the president about the government's position toward the sale of gas to Brazil. To this Padilla answered: [Begin recording] In this regard I want to point out that we only signed a letter of intent with Brazil, during the previous government. I have ordered a study of our gas reserves. We have more than enough gas in our country. We cannot have it and let it remain idle without using it. Since we have large gas reserves it is convenient for the country to sell it. In this regard I believe that since (?the negotiations) take a long time, the decision will be up to the government which follows mine. I just want to tell you that [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Padilla stated that all charges of mismanagement against prior leaders and government officials will be studied by the Congress of the next constitutional government.

The press conference which was held at government house lasted 56 minutes and gave a view of the government's position toward a variety of issues.

PRESIDENT PADILLA INTERVIEWED ON POLICIES, ELECTION PLANS

LD271523Y Paris LE MONDE in French 27 Dec 78 p 4 LD

[Nicole Bonnet interview with Bolivian President Padilla: "Bolivia: 'We Will Surrender Power to Those Who Win the 1 July Elections,' President Padilla Tells LE MONDE"--date and place not given]

[Text] On 24 November President Juan Pereda was overthrown by Gen David Padilla. The latter rapidly gained the support of the leftwing parties and in particular the Popular Democratic Union, and announced general elections for 1 July 1979. The handicap of the presidential elections on 9 July this year, which were marked by numerous irregularities and failed to produce an uncontested winner, thus seemed to have been removed.

President Padilla wants above all only to effect an "administrative transition" to prepare the elections. The Popular Democratic Union's enthusiastic support for the coup d'etat has nonetheless frightened the conservative majority of the armed forces. In the face of these contradictions President Padilla tries to explain his government's position in the interview he has given us.

[Question] A month after the coup d'etat there has been no statement making it possible to define your policy for these 7 months of transitional government.

[Answer] We do not believe it is necessary to define our ideological line since we do not represent any political trend or party. The elections are not our sole aim, for we cannot paralyze the country for 7 months. During this time we will govern and make decisions to resolve the problems whose solution cannot be deferred. These decisions will not necessarily be political but rather of an administrative order.

[Question] Your government unites all national political trends....

[Answer] No political trend, no party is represented. My government is made up of "institutionalist" militarymen who are at the service of the country.

[Question] A member of your government has stated that "the institutionalist group has cleaned up the image inherited from previous governments which manipulated the army, committing atrocities in its name." How do you assess these 12 years of government by the armed forces?

[Answer] We cannot claim that an institution as large as the armed forces is made up exclusively of blameless people. But it cannot be said that the armed forces as an institution has been manipulated and has committed atrocities.

[Question] Emphasis is being placed on your government's frailty. Do you believe that a fascist countercoup is possible?

[Answer] If you were to ask me the date of the next earthquake and the area affected, my reply would be the same....

[Question] Despite last July's fraud, it seems the Popular Democratic Union won the elections.

[Answer] No one won the elections, although the country lost them. The citizens went to the polls in a disciplined way and on a massive scale, but the expression of their will was disrupted by sectarian groups which committed irregularities, prejudicing the desire for democratization. Under these conditions anyone can say they won the elections but no one can prove it.

[Question] Not long before his fall President Pereda said he had deferred the elections until 1980 in order to avoid handing over power to the communists, by which he meant the Popular Democratic Union. Some militarymen are of the same opinion. Will you defend the process of democratization by force or would you prefer to resign in order not to divide the armed forces?

[Answer] My government has promised free, democratic elections and it will surrender power to those who win them. We are firmly resolved to fulfill our promise.

[Question] The economic crisis is serious. How do you intend to overcome it?

[Answer] The situation is not serious but delicate. We are certain that the classic cures such as austerity, which can be applied in any part of the world, will make it possible to surmount this situation. The restriction of public spending and the postponement of nonpriority operations will not affect the population.

[Question] The need to modernize the armed forces returns as a leitmotif in official statements. Are arms purchases justified in a period of austerity?

[Answer] In any part of the world the army must be modernized in order not to lose its ability to defend the country. I see nothing wrong in the Ministry of Defense using its budget to update its equipment. Its aim is--and will continue to be--to insure national defense and not to attack, as has always been the case throughout our history.

PCB LEADER ASSESSES NEW PADILLA GOVERNMENT

LD2811O1Y Paris L'HUMANITE in French 20 Dec 78 p 8 LD

[Jose Fort undated interview with Jorge Kolle, secretary general of the Communist Party of Bolivia, in Paris: "The Meaning of a 'Pronunciamiento'"]

[Text] After the 24 November coup, the situation in Bolivia is calm. The overthrow of President Pereda by General Padilla seems to have been greeted with satisfaction by the population. General Padilla recently stated that the regime he heads is of "no partisan political orientation" and announced the holding of "genuinely free" elections in the first half of 1979. Without formally excluding the possibility of communist participation in the government, we made it clear that such an eventuality would create "problems within the country and abroad."

Passing through Paris before returning to La Paz, Jorge Kolle, secretary general of the Communist Party of Bolivia (PCB), answered L'HUMANITE's questions.

[Question] Two coups in Bolivia in 1 year. Two coups with different content, according to the opposition. How do Bolivian Communists assess the new Padilla government?

[Answer] General Padilla's arrival as president may constitute progress. Let us hope that his policy takes the direction of a resumption of the democratic process in Bolivia. [paragraph continues]

What was Pereda's government if not a continuation of deception? A deception 7 years old. The "pronunciamiento" of the military, headed by General Padilla, seems to have put an end to a sinister period by removing from power the fascist and most reactionary sectors of the bourgeoisie and the army.

Two promises are greeted favorably by all democratic forces: to organize free elections during the first half of 1979 and to implement measures aimed at democratizing the country. Within the army, the correlation of forces still tends toward the right. The government which emerged from the military "pronunciamiento" of 24 November, which seems to take into account the people's aspiration to justice and freedom, could be maintained--on one condition, that it makes sure of the people's support. How? By showing, in deeds, that it is not a question of just "one more coup," but rather of an initiative by realistic and patriotic militarymen who want real change.

[Question] General Padilla defines his regime as "neutral." He does not formally exclude the possibility of communist participation in the government, but insists on the unfavorable reactions which such a decision would arouse in Bolivia and abroad. Would the PCB agree to participate in the next government?

[Answer] We are always available.

[Question] Would you agree to be a minister?

[Answer] Probably not, but let me answer your first question at greater length. The PCB is a member of the Popular Democratic Union (UDP). We believe that the best path for possible participation in the government lies in unity. The 9 July elections confirmed the validity of our policy. The isolation [marginalisations] of the communists desired so strongly by certain people was condemned by voters.

However, powerful pressure groups exist which are attempting to keep out the PCB--North American imperialism, obviously, but not it alone. How can one fail to note the tremendous efforts made by social democracy--particularly European social democracy--in an attempt to discredit the communists? Bolivian political circles linked with the Socialist International would like the UDP to dissociate itself from the Communist Party. The UDP is made up of diverse parties, very diverse. The exclusion of the communists would mean the rupture of the alliance with the working class--food for thought.

In the face of the economic crisis and the complexities of the international situation created on the eve of the centennial of Bolivia's loss of its coastline, my country needs strong national unity. The communists, I reiterate, are available.

[Question] Is the democratization process in Bolivia well underway?

[Answer] It is increasingly difficult today to govern on the basis of the old dictatorship arrangements--not only in Bolivia but throughout the Latin American Continent. I do not rule out the possibility of a restoration of military dictatorship, but at present that seems to me more complex.

[Question] Is the PCB in good health?

[Answer] It is in good ideological, political and organic health. Nothing is easy when you have to adapt to legality within such a short time after 7 long years of clandestine operation. The PCB will be transformed into a mass party, and I can assure you that we have thoroughly embarked on this effort. [paragraph continues]

You know that even at the worst times there were never more than 50 Bolivian Communists abroad. We voluntarily kept four comrades of our leadership aboard as a security measure. So our organization is established. It enjoys popular support, particularly among the working class, and it would be stupid and dangerous to ignore or to attempt to isolate the working class.

PADILLA OFFICIALLY COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF ARMED FORCES

PY281758Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Dec 78 PY

[Excerpts] The president of the military junta, Gen David Padilla Arancibia, this morning took up his post as commander in chief of the armed forces of the nation. The ceremony took place at Miraflores general headquarters and was attended by high-ranking officers of the armed forces. The president of the military junta then swore in Gen Victor Castillo Suarez as chief of staff of the armed forces command.

PEREDA ASBUN RETAINS RANK OF GENERAL ON ACTIVE SERVICE

PY271347Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 27 Dec 78 PY

[Excerpt] Former President Juan Pereda Asbun continues as a general on active service in the Bolivian Air Force. At present he is at the disposal of the commander in chief. This explanation was given by Gen Gaston Lupo Gamarra, commander of the air force, after a meeting with President David Padilla Arancibia, to whom he presented the air force promotions list.

GOVERNMENT CONCERNED BY PARTY DIVISIONS, DISAGREEMENTS

PY271717Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0425 GMT 27 Dec 78 PY

[From the "Infobol" bulletin published in La Paz by the General Information Secretariat of the Bolivian Presidency]

[Text] There is concern in the armed forces government because the political parties are not showing any inclination to confront the democratization process with determination, and it has been verified that there are marked disagreements which only serve to delay the steps the military government junta has taken to constitutionalize the country. Government spokesmen have said that it was found during the meetings with the political parties that they do not agree on essential factors for speeding up the democratic process. They also asserted that some political fronts and coalitions have suffered deep divisions, not only regarding the approval of legal juridical documents which will protect the holding of clean and democratic elections, but also in the nomination of their candidates.

Six months before the elections are to be held, the parties which were considered the strongest and best organized in the last elections have shown division and uncertainty in their decisions, adopting contradictory attitudes to positions which they themselves had maintained before July this year. It was said that the armed forces government will nevertheless maintain in unaltered form its decision to promote the democratization process by making the meetings with the political parties, fronts and coalitions more active and dynamic.

Independently from this work, the president will officially announce in the first week of January the promulgation of important legal documents, complementary to the decree calling for elections. At the first cabinet meeting of the approaching year, the government will also take measures regarding the methods and systems to be used during the elections in July 1979.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION FINISHES WORK; RECOMMENDATIONS MADE

PY221420Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 22 Dec 78 PY

[Text] The electoral commission, formed by delegates from the political parties, last night concluded its studies of the norms which will guide the elections to be held on 1 July 1979. They decided to demand from the military government junta the withdrawal of troops from the mining centers and the annulment of the military-peasant pact so that the democratization process will have real guarantees of impartiality. The document containing the conclusions will probably be submitted to the government tomorrow, Saturday, 1 day after the end of the term fixed by the military junta for the work of this commission, which initiated its discussions last 11 December.

A commission of editors was entrusted last night with drawing up the document which will be examined today during what will be the last session of the parties, whose task has been called prelegislative. The past sessions have given room for disagreements and sometimes for basically different opinions, but the atmosphere has been considered very positive for the reign of democracy in the country.

The electoral commission discussed 34 points of the electoral law and others referring to the democratization process during its 2 weeks of work. The most important points discussed last night were related to electoral guarantees and the minimum requirements for the political parties. As has occurred during previous sessions, the points were carried unanimously, although several groups stated that they wished their opposition to some of the conclusions to appear in the final document.

The following is a summary of the points which will appear in the document to be submitted to the military government junta:

1. The parties believe it is necessary for the government to order the withdrawal of troops from the mines and peasant communities and that the military-peasant pact be annuled in order to guarantee the electoral process.

2. The registering of political parties should be subject to qualitative regulation, such as the publishing of their programs of principles and action and their lists of leaders. When being registered for elections, they should obtain a minimum of 40,000 voters; otherwise they should pay the cost of printing the multicolor ballot.

3. The recognized right for illiterates to go the ballot boxes as voters should be extended so that they can also run as candidates.

4. Voting (?stations) should be closed if it is verified that 50 percent of the registered voters violated electoral rules.

5. The next parliament should apply the law referring to the permanent functioning of the National Electoral Court.

6. The cost of printing the multicolor ballot should be assumed by the electoral court, as well as the cost of its distribution throughout the country.

7. When political parties claim to use the same color and symbols they should try to reach an agreement before the electoral court has to intervene in the problem to make a final decision.

8. The next parliament should demand validity of the law regarding the recognition of Quechua and Aymara as official languages so that they can be used, along with Spanish, in parliamentary debates.

9. The electoral registers should be published, giving the names of all citizens who will participate in the election.

10. Credentials for senators and deputies who are elected should be granted only by the National Electoral Court.

11. Labor union leaders should be allowed to run as candidates without any restriction.

12. For the first time in an electoral process in this country, the multicolor and multisymbol ballot should be used.

13. The identity card should be the only valid document for inscription in the voting registers and for participation in the election.

14. There should be no restrictions on political propaganda in the communications media of the state.

15. The political parties should assume the representation of the legislative branch in the forming of the national and departmental electoral courts.

16. The electoral process which will conclude on 1 July 1979 should show absolute respect for the constitution.

17. The distribution of seats in the Senate and Chamber of Deputies should be made according to the proportional representation system.

This is a summary of the points which will appear in the document to be submitted tomorrow to the military government junta.

POLITICAL PARTIES SUBMIT ELECTION PROPOSALS TO PADILLA

PY281257Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 28 Dec 78 PY

[Excerpt] There can be harmonious and peaceful coexistence among civilians and militarymen in Bolivia only within the framework of respect for the constitution and the law. There is absolutely no reason for us Bolivians to look back on the past with bitterness. This was said by Guillermo Bedregal when he handed the military junta president the political parties' proposals [illegible] guarantees of a free and democratic electoral process. [passage indistinct]

The delivery of the document took place at government palace. According to Bedregal it contains proposals which will enable the government to take measures guaranteeing clean elections. Bedregal added that the document is inspired by respect for and defense of the constitution under any circumstances and above all other considerations.

NATIONALIST FRONT ORGANIZED TO PARTICIPATE IN NEXT ELECTIONS

PY261535Y La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 21 Dec 78 p 4 PY

[Text] Santa Cruz, 20 Dec--The Nationalist Front [Frente Nacionalista] which will be formed nationwide has been organized in this city. Herberto Castedo has been appointed coordinator and, according to sources of this new organization, the front is comprised of civilian forces which support the nationalist ideal.

This civilian political movement will be led by Gen Hugo Banzer, who has been invited to return to the country. The front has been simultaneously created in Cochabamba and expects to participate in the coming elections.

The sources indicated that contacts have been made with the Bolivian Socialist Falange, Barrientist sectors, and other nationalist elements inviting them to join the front.

It was also decided to hold a national rally in Cochabamba during the first half of January. This rally will appoint the national leadership and will draw up the basic charter of the new front.

MNRI, MIR BACK OPPOSING CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT

PY280253Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Dec 78 PY

[Excerpt] Edil Sandoval Moron, member of the National Revolutionary Movement of the Left [MNRI], indicated that the leadership of this party has entrusted him with the candidacy for vice president of the nation on Hernan Siles Zuazo's ticket.

He recalled that this decision was made on 13 December and that this decision is totally unrelated to the one made by another party which is part of the Democratic and Popular Unity Front [FUDP].

The Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR] had nominated Jaime Paz Zamora for the vice presidency as Siles Zuazo's running mate. In addition to this, Abel Ayoroa Argandona, another member of the MNRI leadership, had claimed to be candidate for the vice presidency.

This is what Sandoval Moron, severely questioned by various sectors within the FUDP, told the reporter of Radio Panamericana: [Begin Sandoval Moron recording] What I want to say is that my candidacy for vice presidency of the nation as well as other candidacies of MNRI members are based mainly on the unanimous decision which the MNRI national leadership reached on 13 December. On that occasion the executive board of my party decided to maintain the dual candidacy of MNRI members. It is within this framework that the grassroots of the MNRI have launched an intense democratic campaign to choose the comrade who will be Hernan Siles Zuazo's running mate in the coming elections. [end recording]

In any case, Sandoval Moron said that the problem of the MNRI's vice presidential candidate will be discussed during a national convention which will be held in January. On that occasion the MNRI convention delegates will decide who will accompany Hernan Siles Zuazo as vice president, even though the MIR firmly believes that Jaime Paz Zamora must be chosen as vice presidential candidate.

Sandoval Moron stated that whatever the result, the candidates will obey the decision because it will come from the party leadership.

RIVAL FSB FACTIONS TAKE STEP TOWARD UNITY

PY290254Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Dec 78 PY

[Text] A meeting of national leaders of the Bolivian Socialist Falange [FSB] has decided to create a national commission under the leadership of (Raul Portugal) in order to attempt the total unity of his party.

According to our sources (Raul Portugal) has been granted broad powers and, until the new leaders of the united FSB are chosen, (Portugal) will be the leader of this party.

The meeting, held in La Paz, ended yesterday and was attended by all conflicting branches, and all of them decided to make efforts to bring about the unity of the FSB.

The representatives of Mario Gutierrez' and Gaston Moreira's factions indicated that they were ready to facilitate the unity of the various FSB factions.

At further meetings the newly created commission will issue a communique announcing this decision. It will also establish its position toward the coming elections. It is possible that the FSB will effect some sort of arrangement with the nationalist sectors of the country designed to present a ticket capable of competing with the other presidential candidates.

So far there are firm candidacies of Victor Paz Estenssoro and Hernan Siles Zuazo. It is also possible that General Hugo Banzer's candidacy will be announced shortly since he has the backing of the Nationalist Front organized in Santa Cruz and another political organization recently created in Cochabamba.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADORS TO BRAZIL, EEC--La Paz, 26 Dec (LATIN)--The Bolivian Government today confirmed the appointment of Gustavo Medeiros and Pablo Dermizaky as ambassadors to Brazil and the EEC, respectively. [Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2335 GMT 26 Dec 78 PY]

JAPANESE CREDIT FOR AIRPORT--The Japanese Government will grant a loan of approximately $70 million to building the Viru Viru International Airport in Santa Cruz. The preliminary step--that is, the exchange of notes between Japan and Bolivia--took place today, and the formalization and ratification of the loan will take place in the near future. According to the agreement reached by representatives of both sides, the Japanese Government will loan Bolivia $70 million, payable in 18 years with a 7-year grace period, and at a 3 and 3/4-percent annual interest rate. [La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 27 Dec 78 PY]

PAPAL ENVOY ARRIVES FOR TALKS ON BEAGLE ISSUE

Cardinal Samore Arrives in Santiago

PY281501Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1446 GMT 28 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 28 Dec (LATIN)--Cardinal Antonio Samore, Pope John Paul II's special envoy, arrived here today at 1140 (1440 GMT).

Samore Meets Pinochet, Cubillos

PY282349Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2255 GMT 28 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 28 Dec (TELAM-EFE)--Vatican envoy Cardinal Antonio Samore met this afternoon with Chilean President Augusto Pinochet and Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos, thus launching his activities aimed at finding a solution for the border conflict with Argentina.

Tomorrow the cardinal will hold a number of meetings to study with Chilean Foreign Ministry advisers individually the issues in dispute with Argentina in order to find a way to avoid armed confrontation.

The cardinal's first meeting today was with the foreign minister, lasting 45 minutes. During this meeting he was accompanied by his advisers Fiorello Cavalli and Faustino Sainz Munoz and by the apostolic nuncio in Santiago, Angelo Sodano. Later Cardinal Samore went to the Diego Portales building, where he spoke with President Augusto Pinochet.

Further Details on Talks

PY290050Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2328 GMT 28 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 28 Dec (LATIN)--Cardinal Antonio Samore, Pope John Paul II's envoy, stated today that he has found "some" willingness in the presidents of Chile and Argentina, Generals Augusto Pinochet and Jorge Rafael Videla, to reach an agreement that would avoid a war over the border dispute between the two countries in the southern region of their territories. "I can say there is some; I am not without hope," stated the cardinal when newsmen asked him if he found the two presidents willing to reach a peaceful solution.

Cardinal Samore met with General Pinochet for 30 minutes on the 22nd floor of the Diego Portales government building. Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos, Apostolic Nuncio Angelo Sodano and the Vatican envoy's assistants, Monsignors Faustino Sainz Munoz and Fiorello Cavalli, also took part in the meeting.

Cardinal Samore first held a 45-minute closed meeting with Cubillos in the Red Room of the Foreign Relations Ministry.

Early tomorrow morning the envoy will hold work meetings at the Foreign Ministry with Chilean experts in boundary affairs.

Cardinal Samore stated that it is difficult to walk along the roads leading to peace. "However, it is not impossible to walk upon them. We are just now beginning to do so. As you know, they are difficult roads, but peace is possible," emphasized the cardinal to the newsmen. He stated that right now relations between Chile and Argentina may not be good. He said: "But they could be. These are two brother countries which should remain so forever. There is no other possibility. It is better to live in harmony than to continue in discord."

Cardinal Samore came to greet the newsmen after his meeting with General Pinochet. He told them that someone had said that the press was the "Fourth Estate, but I grant it first place." Finally, he said that he had received a "very agreeable" impression of President Pinochet during his talk.

PINOCHET HOLDS MEETING WITH MILITARY COMMANDERS

PY282050Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1937 GMT 28 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 28 Dec (AFP)--Chilean President Augusto Pinochet held an informative meeting here today with the generals of the air force and the carabineros, according to reports. The topics of the meeting were kept secret, but authoritative sources indicated that one of them was the status of the southern border dispute with Argentina over the Beagle Channel. This version was strengthened by the presence of Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos and Deputy Foreign Minister Enrique Valdes at the closed-door session. President Pinochet had met earlier with the corps of admirals and the army generals.

PAPERS GIVE WIDE COVERAGE TO BEAGLE DISPUTE

PY281728Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1633 GMT 28 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 28 Dec (AFP)--The influential newspaper EL MERCURIO said in today's editorial on the Beagle Channel conflict that Chile has the most sincere good will for peace toward Argentina. The dean of Chilean newspapers and all other morning newspapers of the capital gave wide coverage to the border conflict, particularly to the presence in Santiago of Cardinal Samore, Pope John Paul II's envoy. EL MERCURIO said that Cardinal Samore is a messenger of peace and LA TERCERA DE LA HORA said in a headline: The cardinal of peace arrives in Santiago today. LA TERCERA DE LA HORA stated in its editorial that the pope's envoy will find here the most sincere dedication to peace, but with the firm disposition not to allow abuse and dismemberment.

The government newspaper EL CRONISTA reported in a front page headline that another 92 Chileans have been expelled from Argentina. EL MERCURIO published a statistic that 3,600 Chileans have been expelled from Argentina this year. All the newspapers also emphasized the protest submitted by Chile to the Argentine Government over the detention of Chilean citizens in the southern Province of Neuquen.

OFFICIAL SAYS CABINET CHANGES DO NOT MEAN POLICY CHANGE

PY281243Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 28 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Gen Rene Vidal, government secretary general, reasserted yesterday that the recent partial cabinet reshuffle was due exclusively to the health and private reasons mentioned by those who submitted their resignations. General Vidal added that the cabinet reshuffle does not mean a change of policy.

PROCEEDINGS ORDERED AGAINST DIPLOMATS ACCUSED OF ESPIONAGE

PY281707Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1629 GMT 28 Dec 78 PY

[Excerpt] Santiago, Chile, 28 Dec (AFP)--President Augusto Pinochet today ordered summary proceedings against the four Chilean diplomatic officials who were expelled from Peru accused of espionage. This information was released by Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos. A more detailed report is expected within the next few hours.

ARMED FORCES CONFIRM CAPTURE OF GUERRILLAS

PA281210Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Dec 78 PA

[Jairo Garcia report]

[Excerpts] The Military Institutes Brigade [BIM] today reported that (?guerrillas) were captured during the past few days and that an arsenal containing Colombian armed forces equipment and subversive bulletins was discovered.

In operations carried out against subversive organiaations by troops since 8 December, members of the urban network of the self-styled Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia have been captured. Those captured have been placed under the orders of the eighth military penal investigative judge and are being held at the Model Jail and the National Women's Jail. The investigation will be carried out by the attorney general's office in charge of military affairs.

The success of the operation is due in great part to the cooperation of citizens who provided confidential information that permitted the aforementioned results to be obtained. The BIM command urged citizens to continue cooperating with the troops in the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the country. BIM commander Gen Miguel Vega Uribe has reported that the operations against subversives are continuing.

Prisoners Will Not Be Tortured

PA281210Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--Gen Miguel Vega Uribe, commander of the Military Institutes Brigade, today said that the investigation of 20 persons allegedly connected with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia has been closely supervised from the beginning by a representative of the attorney general's office in charge of military affairs. The commander said that he had requested that the representative be kept fully informed about the investigation and questioning in order to eliminate any doubts regarding alleged psychological and physical pressure being exerted on the accused during questioning. Vega Uribe said that confessions must be spontaneous and not, as certain persons believe they are, gained through ill treatment and torture. Those accused of subversion and rebellion are being processed, and it is certain that they will appear before a court martial next week.

BRIEFS

RENT FREEZE EXTENDED--Bogota--The national government today decided to extend the rent freeze established by the Lopez Michelsen administration in 1976 for 12 more months. The decree will become effective 1 January. [Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Dec 78 PA]

ROVING AMBASSADOR APPOINTMENT--Bogota--Paulina de Castro (Montalvo), El Cesar Liberal Leader, was appointed roving ambassador [embajadora volandas] to the United Nations in Europe. The announcement was made by Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas, who noted that Mrs Castro (Montalvo's) duties will be to represent the county before UN organizations in Europe. [Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Dec 78 PA]

TRANSPORTATION AID INCREASED--Bogota--The national government today increased by 50 pesos the transportation aid to workers who earn less than 8,900 pesos. The transportation aid from management will become effective on 2 January when the new legal minimum wage will already be in force. [Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Dec 78 PA]

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S BUDGET APPROVED 27 DECEMBER

PA282230Y Lima Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 1901 GMT 28 Dec 78 PA

[Text] The central government's 1979 budget, which was approved yesterday, totals 576,752,300,000 soles. In addition to provisions on the control of expenses and domestic and foreign indebtedness, the law establishes severe restrictions on expenditures. The new fiscal budget, as a result of its planning and structure, seeks to stabilize our economy and make the development process as dynamic as possible, particularly since the country is approaching the transfer of power to civilians.

The largest allocations went to the Ministries of Economy and Finance, with 306,690,700,000 soles; Education, with 60,749,400,000 soles; and Health, with 23,112,200,000 soles. The Foreign Ministry has been allotted 3,736,000,000 soles; the constituent assembly, 169 million soles and the electoral branch, 200 million soles. Funds have also been reserved for the continuation of several important national development projects as well as for the execution of several local interest and sectorial projects.

LABOR FEDERATIONS SUPPORT JANUARY STRIKE

PA281543Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1625 GMT 27 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 27 Dec (EFE)--Leaders of the Trotskyist Peoples, Student, Peasant and Worker Front (FOCEP) have expressed their complete support for the 72-hour strike announced for 9, 10, and 11 January. Deputy Genaro Ledesma, FOCEP's leader, said today that the strike will be the reply "of the masses to the increasing cost of living and to the economic crisis affecting the popular classes."

The communist General Confederation of Workers of Peru (CGTP) and other labor unions announced on 21 December a 72-hour strike. The strike will apparently have the support of the mining and metallurgy federation [federacion minera y metalurgica]; the Single Union of Education Workers of Peru (SUTEP), which comprises 90 percent of the state's 130,000 teachers; state employees and other small organizations.

The government reacted to the strike announcement through its labor minister, who charged that the position of the pro-Moscow CGTP is one of compliance with "foreign plans." The minister also said that the CGTP "is fruitlessly trying to set the country on a path that is contrary to national sentiments and traditions."

In May of this year, 28 persons died as a result of a 48-hour strike to protest increased fuel and transport prices.

According to a government announcement, gasoline prices will go up in January, which will result in new increases in transportation fares. This year transportation fares have already gone up 100 percent. Although no precise information has been given regarding the new price hikes, leftist publications in the country have stated that the cost of food will go up 30 percent. The government has also announced that salaries and wages will go up to compensate for the increased prices. All this will occur in the midst of inflation that, according to official reports, has increased 70 percent.

As the independent publication OIGA recently warned, the price increases could result in increased violence. OIGA also warned that Peru will have a "hot" summer this year.

CURRENT OIL PRODUCTION LEVELS TO BE MAINTAINED

PA281553Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1836 GMT 27 Dec 78 PA

[Excerpt] Caracas, 27 Dec (EFE)--Venezuela will maintain its current oil production levels despite conditions in Iran, which has suspended crude oil exports as a result of its tense situation.

This is what the spokesmen of the Venezuelan Energy and Mines Ministry and of the state-owned Venezuelan Petroleum Company told this agency today.

The Venezuelan officials denied that the possibility of increasing the country's crude oil production, currently stabilized at 2.2 million barrels per day, has been considered.

The officials also denied that contacts have been made in connection with the possibility of holding talks with the other members of OPEC to analyze the repercussions of the Iranian situation on the international hydrocarbons market.

CURBS ON GASOLINE CONSUMPTION FORECAST

PA281920Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1447 GMT 28 Dec 78 PA

[Excerpts] Caracas, 28 Dec (EFE)--According to the virtual new energy and mines minister, Humberto Calderon Berti, the next Venezuelan Government will have to adopt definitive measures to curb the increasing domestic consumption of gasoline.

In an interview published today in the Caracas newspaper EL NACIONAL, Calderon Berti, who is President-elect Luis Herrera Campins' oil adviser, indicated that excessive domestic consumption of fuel "harms the country." Calderon Berti referred to the urgent need to "draft a true joint transportation policy that reduces domestic gasoline consumption."

Most of the gasoline consumed in Venezuela is used by private and collective transportation vehicles, the presidential adviser noted, "thus harming the country and preventing the use of this energy for needed industrial development." Calderon Berti added that there "are a number of studies on the revision of gasoline prices at the consumer level," but that he has no official work on them.

Finally, in regard to oil prices on the international market, Calderon Berti explained that they "will not rise above the figure stipulated by the OPEC countries for 1979; that is, an average of 10 percent."

NEW ADMINISTRATION REPORTEDLY NAMES SEVERAL CABINET MINISTERS

WA281400Y Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 19 Dec 78 p D-4 WA

[Text] Caracas, 19 Dec--Dr Humberto Calderon Berti will be the minister of energy and mines in the next administration. The petroleum expert is currently in Abu Dhabi at the OPEC meeting in which petroleum prices have just been increased. Calderon Berti related news of the [petroleum price] agreement to President-elect Luis Herrera Campins.

It appears that two appointments have been made: that of Gonzalo Garcia Bustillos as minister of the Secretariat of the Presidency and the appointment of Calderon Berti. There is speculation that Ernesto Mayz Vallenilla will be named minister of education and that Eduardo Fernandez will be named governor of the Federal District or head of the Ministry of Youth.

PEMEX ANNOUNCES OIL PRICE OF $14.10 IN 1979

FL282159Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish 1941 GMT 28 Dec 78 FL

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 27 Dec (INFORMEX)--The price of Mexican petroleum for export from ports of the Gulf of Mexico will be 14.10 dollars per barrel during the first 3 months of 1979, Mexican Petroleum [PEMEX] Director Eng Jorge Diaz Serrano has announced in New York City. This price is higher than the one announced by the OPEC nations which 2 weeks ago agreed to hike the price of crude by 14.5 percent during 1979. The OPEC price for the first 3 months of 1979 is 13.33 dollars per barrel, which is 77 cents lower than Mexico's.

In a brief report PEMEX today made public the announcement made by engineer Diaz Serrano at the inauguration of the PEMEX sales offices at New York's International Center of Petroleum Commerce. According to the official announcement, the new PEMEX office, located at 655 Madison Avenue, will supervise trade and promote sales of crude, by-products and petrochemical products in the energy market which operates internationally from New York, since the majority of the operations with the United States and Canada will be at the price of 14.10 dollars per barrel, which is higher than OPEC's. Likewise, PEMEX (?said) that "this will set back negotiations with European and Eastern countries, for which it will be more convenient to acquire their energy products in other geographic areas." New York's PEMEX office will be headed by Carlos Walter Madrid.

FORTHCOMING VISITS BY CARTER, POPE DRAW COMMENT

FL282143Y Mexico City INFORMEX in English 1923 GMT 28 Dec 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 27 Dec (INFORMEX)--"Pressured by North American public opinion, President Jimmy Carter is coming to Mexico to force our country to sell to that nation the fuel it dearly needs," Senator Jorge Cruickshank Garcia stated today. In view of this situation, the senator urged the Mexican people to fully back their president so that when he meets with the U.S. head of state he may have the nationalist stamina required to defend our energy products. Cruickshank stated that Mexico should use its energy products to force the United States "to accord us the treatment we deserve." "The North Americans would like to force us to yield, but the petroleum is a good weapon against the hegemony they want to use over us," he stressed. He pointed out that Mexico's industrial development must be based on its petroleum, and in this manner it will cease to be the commercial backyard of the United States.

When asked about the visit by Pope John Paul II, the socialist leader stated it will be used by the conservatives to become stronger. "The pope will be received as a distinguished visitor, but this is totally unacceptable since his mere presence constitutes a violation of the constitution," he said. He remarked that if we do not have relations with the Vatican and its head of state is given such a reception "it is the same thing as if Augusto Pinochet comes and we give him that kind of reception." In closing he asserted that the pope's visit is contrary to the law and logic and, above all, to the dignity of the country.

SENATOR PRAISES COUNTRY'S FOREIGN POLICY

FL272039Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish 2001 GMT 27 Dec 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 26 Dec (INFORMEX)--Senator Fausto Zapata Loredo today stated that President Jose Lopez Portillo has been very astute in conducting our foreign policy with respect to the United States.

In an interview held prior to the senate session the legislator indicated that Mexican-U.S. relations are going through a period in which there is increasingly greater awareness among the more important sectors of public opinion. He said that in the southern part of the United States there is an agricultural work market in need of Mexican labor which has led a large number of Mexicans to travel to that country due to the unemployment existing here. He said that doubtlessly this will be one of the topics President Lopez Portillo will discuss with Jimmy Carter during his upcoming visit to Mexico in an effort to seek just treatment for the thousands of Mexicans who visit that country looking for work.

Communist Leader's Comments

FL272106Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish 2113 GMT 27 Dec 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 26 Dec (INFORMEX)--"Mexico's foreign policy has been unstable, undefined and indecisive with respect to the United States," Pablo Gomez, the official spokesman of the Mexican Communist Party, declared today.

Referring to the Vatican case, he stressed that there has not been an official statement. "The Mexican Government is hiding behind a facade [esta caminando con apariencias] which is not advisable in conducting a clear foreign policy," he said. He asserted that despite the fact that the Mexican Government has no diplomatic relations with the Vatican, it should make an official pronouncement upon the pope's arrival in Mexico. He added that even though Pope John Paul II is not recognized as a head of state, it should be said he is a personality. Pablo Gomez stated that establishing relations with the Vatican would not be a matter of grave consequence.

Finally, he stated that the resignation of Martinez Nateras, member of the Mexican Communist Party Central Committee, will not have negative results.

CANACINTRA ANNOUNCES EXPORTS FOR 1979

FL272023Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish 1941 GMT 27 Dec 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 26 Dec (INFORMEX)--The National Association of Manufacturers [CANACINTRA] today announced it expects to export in 1979 products valued at $12,475 million--about 16.1 percent more than this year. CANACINTRA President Juan Manuel Martinez Gomez added that next year's imports will amount to $15,486 million, which represents an increase of 15.6 percent over the 1978 estimate. He added that the organization to date has continued to make important loans abroad in packages at very attractive interest rates.

He asserted that in a period of high solvency of the international banking system the country finds itself among a group of nations which are highly solicited by the world financial community. However, he said the authorities appear to be determined to maintain the 1977 $3-billion cap to the annual increment of its foreign debt.

Referring to other matters the leader of more than 46,000 industrialists noted the importance of assigning priority to the struggle against the inflationary process in 1979. Finally, Martinez Gomez said that the private and public sectors will have to work very hard during the first months of 1979, using dynamic and acceptable policies to achieve the proposed goal--which is to control inflation.

LEWIS GALINDO TAKES OFFICE AS CANAL AUTHORITY DIRECTOR

PA290409Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 28 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Gabriel Lewis Galindo took office as the first director of the Canal Authority at the presidential palace today. Director Lewis Galindo signed the document of office in the presence of Panamanian President Aristides Royo, Vice President Ricardo de la Espriella and Foreign Minister Carlos Ozores.

In the brief and simple ceremony, Gabriel Lewis Galindo asked for the cooperation of all Panamanians to carry out this mission which demands the maturity and technical ability of all citizens. He assured President Royo that we Panamanians work with greater enthusiasm in a crisis situation. He said that he will make every effort to carry out this mission.

EMERGENCY PLAN FUNDS TO BE USED FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

RA272110Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Dec 78 PA

[Text] According to a feasibility study being prepared by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy, the national government will invest part of the emergency plan funds in the development of small productive businesses. The General Directorate for Community Development will administer the program so that it will be under a single control. The program will be implemented according to family income as reported in socioeconomic surveys.

The emergency plan will provide those who work under it with permanent positions and incomes. Its workers will be hired by the government according to their abilities. Others will be engaged in the creation and development of arts and crafts shops under the guidance of the Ministry of Commerce and Industries.

BRIEFS

DIRECT DIALING SYSTEM--The new microwave network and two electronic centrals being installed in the cities of David and Aguadulce will cost 12 million balboas. Upon completion of the project there will be a complete direct dialing telephone service throughout the republic. [Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 19 Dec 78 pp 1A,8A PA]

NEW AMBASSADOR TO TAIWAN--Ramon Sieiro, new Panamanian ambassador to Nationalist China, will depart for that country next week. Panama will continue diplomatic relations with Nationalist China. [Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 23 Dec 78 p 4 PA]

COSTA RICA

GOVERNMENT DENIES HEAVY WEAPONS USED AGAINST NICARAGUA

PA281357Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Yesterday at about 1500 an emergency meeting was called at the security minister's office. Several members of the cabinet attended this meeting and analyzed General Somoza's statements during a news conference held yesterday in Managua. The general said he would invade our territory if the Sandinist National Liberation Front's attacks against him continued. According to him, these attacks allegedly originate in Costa Rican territory.

The national government has issued an official communique reiterating once again that no mortars or other heavy weapons have been installed in our territory or used to attack Nicaraguan territory or the positions of its National Guard. The communique adds that the Nicaraguan Government knows that these statements are based on truth, but in view of the dangerous possibility that they may be denied by the Nicaraguan Government, the OAS observer will be provided with evidence of their veracity.

For his part, Minister Cordero Croceri has described this threat as one of the most serious in Costa Rican history. The minister commented that one of the most serious threats in Costa Rican history by the ruler of a neighboring country has been made today. Somoza has openly expressed his decision to invade the Costa Rican territory. In view of this threat, President Carazo urgently convoked the Council of Government. The heads of the Legislative Assembly's political factions also participated, and all the political parties gave their support to Carazo.

BILATERAL TREATIES POSSIBLE IF INTERNATIONAL STEPS FAIL

PA281403Y San Jose Radio Monumental in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Following a cabinet meeting, [Presidency Minister] Jose Rafael Cordero Croceri stated that Costa Rica will use all international means available before requesting assistance from friendly countries. He said that following Somoza's statements President Carazo has received several telephone calls from countries such as Venezuela, Colombia and Panama offering immediate cooperation to our country. Cordero Croceri stated: If we do not obtain positive results through international agreements, Costa Rica will immediately employ bilateral treaties with other nations of the continent for their help.

Meanwhile, Public Security Minister Juan Jose Echeverria Brealey said that the government has adopted all the precautionary measures that the situation demands in face of the statements made by General Somoza. The national authorities who were at the Penas Blancas border post have been withdrawn to prevent any conflict with the Nicaraguan Government. The public security minister said that so far Costa Rica has not appealed to friendly countries, such as Panama and Venezuela, since the treaties in effect establish that the assistance is to take place in the event Costa Rica is invaded. At that moment we will request the assistance of one of these countries, Echeverria Brealey stated. So far, he said, we face only a threat of aggression from General Somoza. We hope, he added, that it does not materialize.

FSLN LEADER NAMES OPERATION SITES IN NICARAGUA

PA282307Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 2200 GMT 28 GMT 28 Dec 78 PA

[Text] The Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] has stated that big surprises will come in 1979.

FSLN leader Plutarco Elias Hernandez said that the front carries out all of its attacks in Nicaraguan territory. Commander Plutarco Elias Hernandez said that the front has never announced that Somoza will fall before (?the end) of 1978. Objectively that is difficult, he added. He said that the Nicaraguan Government's charges and the threat to invade Costa Rican territory are clear signs that Somoza cannot endure the constant attacks carried out by the Sandinist Front in Monimbo, Managua, Segovia, Leon and Penas Blancas. Hernandez said that Somoza is trying to distract attention and to internationalize a problem that is destroying him. He said that there are very optimistic spokesmen in the front but, in reality, 1979 will be a year of great surprises. We have never carried out attacks from Costa Rica, he indicated. He predicted that Somoza will fall in 1979. Hernandez said that the attacks in Penas Blancas are carried out in Nicaraguan territory. He said that the [Costa Rican] cleanup operation forces them to stay in Nicaragua to carry out their current struggle.

GUATEMALA

BOMBS EXPLODE IN POLICE CHIEF'S HOUSE

PA281931Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1810 GMT 28 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 28 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--A group of unidentified persons today bombed and partially destroyed the house of Guatemalan counterintelligence police chief Victor Manuel Quinonez. Quinonez was not home at the time of the attack on his house, located in the Atlantida neighborhood, in the northeastern part of this capital.

A group of heavily armed men unexpectedly showed up at the police chief's house and detonated two powerful bombs on the front porch, which was seriously damaged. Before escaping, the men painted a sign on the house which read "enemy of the people."

Quinonez' wife, Maria Olivia Garcia de Quinonez, was visibly shaken after the attack. There were no casualties. According to Mrs Garcia de Quinonez, her family has been receiving threats since 20 October, when a group of unidentified persons shot and killed Oliverio Castaneda, the then-secretary general of the University Students Association.

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADORS--Col Oscar Colindres Corrales, Henrik Egbert Troil Ramel and Mario Arturo Esquivel Tobar, new ambassadors from Honduras, Sweden and Costa Rica respectively, have presented their credentials to President Gen Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia. [Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 18 Dec 78 p 2 PA]

CIVIL AERONAUTICS DIRECTOR--Communications and Public Works Minister Otto Block today swore in Col Augusto Antonio Batres Barrera as the new director of civil aeronautics. [Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 14 Dec 78 p 5 PA]

HONDURAS

PDCH DENOUNCES VIOLATION OF POLITICAL RIGHTS

PA232039Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1847 GMT 22 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 22 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--The Honduran Christian Democratic Party [PDCH] today, Friday, began a campaign to denounce before international organizations the "violation of the political rights of thousands of its members." PDCH adviser Alfredo Landaverde made these statements to ACAN-EFE, noting that the international organizations will be asked to conduct an immediate investigation into what is occurring in Honduras.

The PDCH has not been registered as a political party despite having met a number of legal requirements set by the electoral law which was implemented earlier this year. The failure to register the PDCH is the result of a series of maneuvers staged by the traditional National Party, which has accused the growing PDCH of receiving foreign financial aid.

A hearing [juicio a pruebas] was begun 31 days ago and, in a session which ended early today, Friday, the National Electoral Tribunal denied a PDCH request that the hearing be closed. The electoral law provides that when a registration is challenged, a hearing is held for a maximum period of 30 days. In this case the 30 days expired at midnight last night.

The Electoral Tribunal, by the deciding vote of its president, Virgilio [name indistinct] Galvez, who is also the Supreme Court of Justice delegate, decided that the hearing will be extended until 29 December. Beginning on 30 December, with the closing of the hearing, the tribunal will have 15 days to issue a ruling on the PDCH registration request. The tribunal consists of representatives from the Supreme Court of Justice, which reserves for itself the presidency and a double vote in cases of ties; the PDCH; the already registered National Innovation and Unity Party [PINU]; and the two traditional parties--the Liberal and National parties.

The Supreme Court delegate has voted against the PDCH on every occasion, while the PINU has joined the National Party on some occasions--the important ones--to defeat the aspirations of those seeking registration.

The only delegates who have taken a position that is favorable to the Christian Democrats have been the Liberals, who have preached the advantages of ideological pluralism in the 1980 elections to return power to civilians.

However, the electoral law states that the parties must be registered by 31 December at the latest to permit other steps in the electoral process to be taken within the scheduled period. After 29 December, 15 days remain for the ruling to be issued. The Christian Democrats have practically been left out of the tribunal.

"We will wait for the decree of the government military junta before leaving the electoral tribunal", Landaverde said. This situation will leave only the Liberals in favor of the PDCH, while the PINU, the National Party and the Presidency of the Tribunal will oppose it.

"As a political maneuver," Landaverde said, "the PINU will surely vote for us, but the deciding vote will leave us on the outside." The PDCH leader said: "We have appealed to the Supreme Court of Justice and the armed forces to investigate the actions of the president of the tribunal because he voted in a partisan manner as if by orders from above."

NICARAGUA

SOMOZA INTERVIEWED ON SANDINIST, COSTA RICAN ISSUE

PA290240Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0045 GMT 29 Dec 78 PA

["Exclusive" telephone interview with Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza on 28 December; place not given--recorded]

[Text] [Question] In your news conference yesterday you said that if necessary you would invade Costa Rican territory if there was a Sandinist attack on Costa Rican territory. [as heard] Do you still maintain this position in the event that Costa Rica does not try to solve the problem that you denounced?

[Answer] Let me explain. I said that if we exhausted all international means and the Costa Rican Government did not end the matter of the Sandinists and if the Sandinists invaded us, we would use the legitimate right of defense even if this required that [words indistinct]. We are not interested in harming Costa Rica, but we are interested in having the Costa Rican people become aware of the government's complicity with the Sandinists.

[Question] Mr President, your statements at a news conference yesterday have caused great commotion in Costa Rica since you said that in case of new aggression by the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] through Costa Rican territory--which the Costa Rican authorities have denied--you would be ready to pursue them even inside Costa Rican territory. This statement has caused great concern, not so much in the government but among the Costa Rican people. Do you maintain this position you expressed in yesterday's news conference? You said that Nicaragua had spoken before international organizations and that you had showed the world that Nicaragua is interested in maintaining peace but that another confrontation could prompt an invasion to end the attacks on the Nicaraguan people.

[Answer] Look, for nearly 3 months--September, October, November, December--4 months, we have been harassed from Costa Rican territory. We have done everything possible to get Costa Rica to eliminate the Sandinist situation. We have gone to the OAS. Costa Rica has gone to the United Nations, but Costa Rica has not wanted to pay the cost of observers that we have suggested and requested. We see that international organizations are not moving fast enough to stop an attack. As President Carazo said a couple of weeks ago, to give refuge to such a large number of Sandinists is to establish the government's complicity with them and could bring attacks on Costa Rican territory. The only thing that I am doing is reminding the Costa Rican people of what President Carazo said in the event that an attack came from Costa Rica.

[Question] Mr President, Nicaraguan Ambassador Sevilla Sacasa asked the OAS today that the Reciprocal Assistance Treaty be applied on the basis of Articles 46 and 52. What does your government seek with this request to the Costa Rican Government through the OAS?

[Answer] Well, that it not permit armed irregulars to enter Nicaragua's peace. We are losing our patience. They have kidnaped and taken many of our people and have not returned them to us. They have entered from Costa Rica and have murdered civilians and poor residents. This is a situation that the Costa Ricans should be aware of so that they will realize how these gentlemen are raising passions needlessly.

[Question] Mr President, you spoke in the news conference about a convenient deadline for Costa Rica. You did not specify what deadline your country would give Costa Rica to try to solve the problem with the Sandinists here.

[Answer] I believe that it should be the time required to comply with the international treaties and the friendship treaties that Nicaragua and Costa Rica have.

[Question] Mr President, Costa Rica has asked for the application of the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty [TIAR] which would mean that severe preventive measures would be taken against Nicaragua in view of what Costa Rica feels was a threat made by you yesterday. What is your opinion?

[Answer] I could also ask that the TIAR be applied against the aggression that is coming from Costa Rica with the tacit consent of the Costa Rican Government.

[Question] Mr President, when we interviewed you the day before yesterday you said that you had nothing against the [Costa Rican] people and government. Maybe that is why your announcement in yesterday's news conference has had such a great impact in Costa Rica. What is your position now after yesterday's announcement?

[Answer] I maintain that I have nothing against the Costa Rican people. They are our brothers. But I do have ideas on the government that rules them because it is getting the Costa Rican people involved in difficulties that they do not need.

[Question] Mr President, I have a colleague who wants to ask you some questions. Would you allow me to put him on the phone?

[Answer] Of course.

[Question] Mr President, what do you think about your name being linked to Nicaragua's history for 40 years?

[Answer] Well, I see it as a phenomenon of peoples at the time and moment. We have worked on behalf of the Nicaraguan people. With our ideas and our efforts we have brought progress to the Nicaraguan people. We are still serving the Nicaraguan people. Each time that we have been in the presidency it has been through an election in which the Nicaraguan people have confirmed us by popular vote. So I believe that we are undertaking a task in accordance with the situation in which we live.

[Question] Mr President, if you participate in a plebiscite, with the FAO accepting the plebiscite, would you win that plebiscite?

[Answer] I am almost certain that I would win it because in February the Nationalist Liberal Party [PLN] obtained more than 500,000 votes--excluding the city of Managua where Liberalism is strong. They wanted me to negotiate my turning over the presidency to a group, the Broad Opposition Front [FAO], which did not even have 100,000 votes. So I felt it was a fraud to turn over power to that group and it would be better to hold a plebiscite. Then with an organized country I could turn over power if they defeated me.

[Question] Mr President, what do you feel when the front attacks and so many Nicaraguans die and then international opinion says that this is due to a massacre by the National Guard which receives your orders? What do you feel when this is international opinion?

[Answer] Frankly, I am identified with an ideological struggle. I am a man who supports democracy and is against Marxism-Leninism. The struggle in Nicaragua is ideological. Only the communists personalize the struggle against the name of Somoza. But the fact is that the members of the front are Marxist-Leninists who want to forcefully end the democratic and republican government that exists in Nicaragua. This should be of concern to the Costa Rican people who love democracy so much.

[Question] Mr President, what ties do you have with the magazine VISION? Some time ago its staff told the world that you are its owner and many of the staff members resigned. Do you have any connection with that magazine?

[Answer] No, the only connection is that the director is married to my daughter and these cheap politicians who seek to slander me use that connection against me for political objectives.

[Question] Mr President, the Costa Rican Government has made a new charge before a high international organization. Could you tell me what kind of effect Costa Rica's charge will have on Nicaragua's image in the world? Do you think...

[Answer] Well, let me answer that first question. The result will be that the Costa Rican Government is going to have to confess that they have training camps there and have been harassing the Nicaraguan people from there.

[Question] Has Nicaragua's image abroad deteriorated or improved during the past few months?

[Answer] Excuse me, I did not hear you very well.

[Question] Is Nicaragua's image deteriorating or improving in view of the latest charges by the Costa Rican Government?

[Answer] I think that Nicaragua's image is improving since we are showing that we are sufficiently strong to repel any aggression and that we also desire that this aggression does not occur, demanding that the Costa Rican Government take [word indistinct] measures in line with the international treaties of peace and harmony that exist on this continent.

[Question] Mr President, would you be willing to accept the withdrawal of your son from Nicaragua if that were to be the final demand of the mediation commission for holding a plebiscite in your country?

[Answer] My son has done nothing illegal for politicians to be making demands on him with things that he has nothing to do with.

[Question] In your case, would you abandon the country if it was demanded for holding the plebiscite?

[Answer] No.

[Question] Mr President, we know much about Nicaragua and its politics, but there are many questions about you. Could you list some 10 qualities and defects of your personality?

[Answer] Listen, I would do so with much pleasure, but we are in the middle of a radio interview and I cannot list them one after the other. So excuse me if I do not answer your question.

[Question] Mr President, one important aspect that caught my attention was that before the 24th [of December] and even on the 24th when the situation in Nicaragua was tense, you distributed gifts to the poor children. Could you explain to Costa Rica and the world your attitude? We understand that you as a human being must have some feelings. Why did you do this in the middle of such a difficult situation?

[Answer] Because it has been my personal and political tradition to give Christmas gifts to the people who work with me and to the poor children who do not have much and deserve a present. It is not a new thing. It is just that it has come to light now because we are in the news.

[Question] How do you feel about each drop of blood that is shed in your country?

[Answer] I feel a lot because we have always been willing to hold a dialog, but there is a faction that does not want to hold a dialog and wants to obtain power by force. Those who feel that way know that they are shedding blood because they want to and because of the manner they have chosen to obtain power.

[Question] I would like to ask you two questions. What methods have you used to obtain the economic and political (?power) that you have?

[Answer] To be a good businessman.

[Question] Which countries support your position?

[Answer] Well, I cannot specify which ones support me or not, but I have relations with most of the countries of the world except for your distinguished country.

[Question] Could you mention some five countries?

[Answer] I am not authorized to list the countries.

[Question] Why not, Mr President?

[Answer] Because I am a political man, an aware man. You are asking me to list such and such a country so that later you can go ask them if this is true. I am not going to give you that opportunity.

[Question] Do you think that if you lost political power you could enjoy real peace in your country or abroad for the rest of your life?

[Answer] If I lose power I will enjoy peace because I will no longer have the responsibility that I have by popular mandate.

[Question] Mr President, the OAS Permanent Council today decided that the president of that group should contact you and President Carazo to try to alleviate the situation. What will be your position in view of this request?

[Answer] It will be one of giving the president of the OAS Council all my cooperation so there will be no blood shed between our two countries.

[Question] We are concerned about your statements during a news conference yesterday which were quite clear in the sense that you would be ready to invade the territory [of Costa Rica]. Is this a firm decision on your part? Would you be ready to invade Costa Rican territory if the front, as you suppose, opens a strong offensive against your country?

[Answer] We are ready to defend ourselves and we are ready to go to international organizations so that they will impose peace and seriousness on the Government of Costa Rica.

[Question] That is, that you detract from what you said yesterday. You will not attack Costa Rica as long as the international organizations make a pronouncement on the situation?

[Answer] That is correct.

[Question] But this eliminates the possibility that if a new attack of the front occurs [words indistinct]. The Costa Rican Government has denied that [words indistinct] from Costa Rican territory. Plutarco Hernandez of the Sandinist Front explained today that everything is occurring in Nicaraguan territory.

[Question] The Nicaraguan National Guard and even General Evertz were invited to visit the zone so that it could be confirmed that no attacks were coming from Costa Rica. They did not initially accept this invitation. Would you send some government official or National Guardsmen to inspect the zone and determine if there is an attack on your country from Costa Rican territory?

[Answer] Let me explain. In the first place, it is not only the attack of mortars or 50-caliber weapons in Penas Blancas, but incursions around Poco Sol where they have killed civilians. They have carried out incursions on Isla Grande. In the latest incursion they kidnaped a poor resident and they have him in Costa Rica and we are going to demand that they return him to us. There was also a kidnaping of a woman northeast of Cardenas. She is still in Costa Rica. There was the murder of a fisherman. This was carried out by the gentlemen who entered Orosi during the battle when the priest Gaspar Garcia died. The Costa Rican authorities have asked our military authorities to enter their territory unarmed. We do not have relations with you and so we are not going to let them kill a man in Costa Rican territory and then have them claim that we entered without authorization. We asked that they put down that invitation in writing, but they refused. We, who do not have reason to trust the Costa Rican Government, felt that it was not advisable to have our militarymen enter Costa Rican territory under any circumstance.

[Question] Mr President, what is the outlook for your country in 1979? Do you think there will be peace and tranquillity or will there be a difficult situation for your government?

[Answer] I think there will be peace and tranquillity if the Costa Rican Government liquidates the Sandinists.

[Question] If Costa Rica should at any given time propose the reestablishment of diplomatic relations with Nicaragua, what would be your position in this respect?

[Answer] Most positive, because I believe that the relations between the peoples of Nicaragua and Costa Rica have been excellent in the last 23 years and should not be interrupted because of the opinion of the incumbent government.

[Question] Then we should disregard the announcement reported here in Costa Rica yesterday as being a threat in the event talks are started to settle the conflict?

[Answer] Naturally, you should disregard the announcement because, as I said, if the international organizations do not take prompt action and do not consider the situation as being serious, then we will have to forget about them and settle the issue government to government.

[Question] What do you mean when you said some time ago that this is not a game of mice?

[Answer] Well, reports from San Jose are saying that there is shooting in Nicaraguan territory, knowing that anybody who sticks his fingers here will be caught in a mousetrap. Then, they are saying that the fire that is actually coming from Costa Rica originates in Nicaragua. Therefore, if we are to open fire in order to neutralize the shooting, we are going to be accused of having invaded Costa Rica. That is what I am trying to avoid. I want the OAS and the Costa Rican Government to show their concern over the situation.

[Question] Mr President, two questions about yourself. Do you really believe in God and are you a Catholic and how do you show it in your actions? And the second question is: Why are some clergymen opposed to your regime?

[Answer] I am a Catholic and practice it with goodness, mercy and pardon. I attend mass whenever my duties permit. The fact that the church--not all of the church, but some members of the church--oppose our regime is nothing new because of the laical liberalism practiced in Nicaragua for over 50 years. So we understand that some priests may oppose us, but we give them every guarantee to express themselves in whatever way they want.

[Question] Mr President, two questions to conclude my interruption. One, on many occasions it has been said that you made investments in Costa Rica. Is it true or false, and to what extent? Second, in view of the measures recently adopted by the Costa Rican Government, how do you see the relations between the two countries in the near future?

[Answer] I have always felt that Costa Rica is a place where one can invest safely, and because of that I have bought some land. Unfortunately, the political hatred of some politicians has made me lose faith in making further investments in Costa Rica. They are even trying to expropriate my farm known as Murcielago. The latest attitudes of the Costa Rican Government are unknown to me, therefore I cannot answer your second question.

[Question] Mr President, did you have a Costa Rican as a partner in the Murcielago farm and, if so, could you give us some names for our listeners?

[Answer] Well, I had Costa Rican partners, and very honorable ones, but later they sold me their part, so now I have no Costa Rican partner.

[Question] Could you tell us who these partners were?

[Answer] That is not important.

[Question] Mr President, there is another reporter who wants to ask some questions.

[Answer] Listen, I am going to have to interrupt the interview. I am willing to answer any questions, but not all afternoon, so you will excuse me.

[Question] Mr President, only one question. Today the Sandinist leader Ernesto Cardenal called a news conference at noon and said that you had bought some information media in Costa Rica and that you have a chaplain who is working for Somoza in the Costa Rican public forces. What can you say about it?

[Answer] The only persons who can answer the knavery of that priest are the Costa Ricans whom I know as men who do not sell themselves to anybody.

[Question] Would you like to add anything else, Mr President?

[Answer] Yes, I want to wish the Costa Rican people a happy new year, a peaceful 1979, and I want to tell them that the Nicaraguan people have always admired the Costa Rican people.

GENERAL SAYS GUANACASTE PROVINCE MAY SOON BE 'RECOVERED'

PA281842Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1826 GMT 28 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 28 Dec (AFP)--Gen Gonzalo Evertz, Nicaraguan National Guard commander in the southern district, said today that Nicaragua "will soon recover Guanacaste Province." The commander was referring to the Costa Rican border province which Nicaragua held until fighting and political incidents led it to hand the province over to Costa Rica in 1858.

General Evertz, who said today has been quiet at the border, warned that if the Nicaraguan Army crosses the border "it will only be advancing on Nicaraguan territory since Nicaragua still claims Guanacaste Province as its own."

For his part, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Julio C. Quintana called a press conference today in which it was said reference will be made to the tense situation prevailing between both countries and Costa Rica's invocation of the International Reciprocal Assistance Treaty (TIAR) to ask other American nations' assistance in case of a Nicaraguan invasion.

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES BORDER SITUATION

PA282025Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2015 GMT 28 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 28 Dec (AFP)--Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Julio Quintana said today that the Nicaraguan Army is ready to defend the nation's sovereignty. He clarified that Nicaragua is not planning to invade Costa Rica, which he accused of overdramatizing President Anastasio Somoza's statements on Wednesday on the tense situation along the border between Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

The foreign minister said that Nicaragua has a very long border that is poorly marked with Costa Rica. He explained, however, that the Nicaraguan National Guard would never intentionally enter Costa Rican territory. He made it clear that Somoza's statements referred to Nicaragua not having any other recourse but to invade Costa Rica if an attacking force entered the country since "in a war situation the movement of soldiers cannot be limited."

Quintana accused Costa Rica of complicity in what he labelled the "harassment by the Sandinist forces in Nicaraguan territory this week." He also accused the Costa Rican Government of using tactics which have delayed the initiation of security at the border by neutral OAS forces.

In conclusion he said that the international brigades protected by Costa Rica's indifference threaten Nicaraguan territory and that the National Guard knows of this threat and is ready to act if an open invasion against national territory materializes.

FAO WILL NOT ACCEPT PLN COUNTERPROPOSAL

PA281758Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1648 GMT 28 Dec 78 PA

[By Eduardo Romero--quotation marks as received]

[Excerpts] Managua, 28 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--According to a number of moderate opposition sectors in Nicaragua, the U.S. Government has the necessary means to break Gen Anastasio Somoza's resistance in the event that international mediation fails in this country.

This view was expressed today by several opposition organizations which have definitely rejected the "counterproposal" that the ruling Nationalist Liberal Party (PLN) submitted yesterday to the U.S. representative, William Bowdler.

For his part, Nicaraguan internationalist Luis Pasos Arguello has rejected the term "interventionist" that the Somoza regime has applied to the final proposal made by the inter-American organization's commissioners, because, first, the proposal was made by OAS representatives, who came to this country, a member of the OAS, with Nicaragua's consent and, second, it is not a mandatory proposal. Therefore, it cannot be described as intervention, jurist Pasos Arguello explained.

According to him, Somoza's government has shown its true intentions by proposing organizations outside current laws and the constitution for the plebiscite while rejecting the suggestion that the OAS participate directly in the organization of the voting and the votecounting processes.

Meanwhile, the Group of 12, which withdrew from the FAO, feels that to keep its promise the FAO "should withdraw from the talks with the mediation commission so as not to prolong the country's political agony.

Sergio Ramirez Mercado, one of the group's best-known spokesmen, who agreed earlier with Somoza in calling the final proposal "interventionist," said today that the mediation has led to the "exigenizacion" [translation unknown] of Somoza's dictatorship and that the opposition should not continue to play this game.

Through Rafael Cordoba Rivas, its representative to the mediation commission, the FAO announced today that it will not accept the [counterproposal] document or its modifications. The FAO had already accepted the OAS mediators' "final proposal" in its entirety.

According to Cordoba Rivas, the international mediators did not fail in their mission in Nicaragua. "They obtained immediate positive results--such as the suspension of press censorship, the state of siege and martial law, the granting of a broad amnesty, even though it is not being fully implemented, and the revision of the dreaded radio and television code.

The opposition leader stressed that "the United States has the necessary resources to subdue General Somoza's arrogance. From that standpoint I do not believe the mediation will fail because of that power's pride.

For his part, Conservative parliamentarian Julio Molina said that the dictator is once again trying to mock the Nicaraguan people by proposing that the corrupt electoral system that has allowed him to perpetuate himself in power be accepted.

He added that it is unacceptable that the citizens registered in last February's municipal election participate in the plebiscite. On that occasion 95 percent of the citizens abstained from voting but still Somoza made 500,000 persons vote for his candidates. Now he wants to win the plebiscite with his ghosts, he concluded.

Another Conservative leader noted that with his persistence "Somoza is leaving the Nicaraguan people with armed struggle as their only path to the democratic and pluralistic government with freedom to which they aspire, thus making it necessary to support the guerrilla Sandinist Front.

BORGE MARTINEZ NAMED FSLN GENERAL COORDINATOR

PA271825Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1604 GMT 27 Dec 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 27 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--Tomas Borge Martinez, one of the surviving founders of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), has been appointed general coordinator of that guerrilla organization, which is trying to overthrow President Anastasio Somoza.

This information was published today in the newspaper EL CENTROAMERICANO of the city of Leon, located west of Managua, based on an FSLN communique. According to reports referring to the communique, the coordination work of Borge Martinez, who presumably is in Cuba, will cover the three branches into which the FSLN has been divided: "Prolonged People's War" (GPP), "Tertiary" or "Insurrectional" and the "Proletarian" faction.

REPORT ON INCIDENTS THROUGHOUT NATION

PA271718Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Masaya, Nicaragua--Insurgents killed one person and wounded another during an incursion into the Indian community of Monimbo, located in this city. Elsewhere, the army killed four young persons on Christmas Eve in other parts of the country.

The members of a Sandinist cell, who covered their faces with black and red handkerchiefs--the colors of their guerrilla organization--entered the bedroom of marimba musician Freddy Simon, who was resting with his wife, and shot him in the heart, killing him. The reasons for the execution have not been explained, but relatives of the victim believe that he was confused with a National Guard informer fighting against the guerrillas.

In the city of Santa Teresa, Carazo Department, a patrol broke up the funeral ceremony being held for three young men who were killed on 23 December by military troops who had repulsed a Sandinist attack on their barracks. The patrol fired shots in breaking up the funeral. The victims of the soldiers' counterattack in Santa Teresa on 23 December were the brothers Orlando and Rafael Narvaez--high school students--and Milton Dinalte. Relatives of the victims have stated that the Narvaez brothers did not die in the fight but were arrested while they were leaving a house where they had been watching television and later killed. This happened after the insurgents' attack on the barracks.

In Managua, a patrol shot Freddy Jose Largaespada, a 22-year-old man, for no apparent reason. He was shot in the heart and head. He died instantly.

Parents and religious authorities are speaking out against the violence of both sides in the Nicaraguan armed struggle in an effort to have the government's and opposition's politicians contribute to a peaceful and prompt solution of the political conflict in Nicaragua.

PCN MEMBERS CONTINUE TO HOLD ELECTORAL POSTS

PA281457Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1255 GMT 28 Dec 78 PA

[Text] It has been officially announced in a bulletin released by the Information and Press Secretariat of the Presidency that as of vacation time the electoral tribunal's employees had not received any official note from the Nicaraguan Conservative Party [PCN] notifying them that PCN members working in the electoral tribunals had resigned from their posts.

According to the law, the resignation must first be tendered to the PCN's national directorate. Once the resignation is accepted, the directorate must notify the Supreme Electoral Tribunal. The Information and Press Secretariat bulletin concludes that since this notification has not been received, the representatives of the minority remain in their posts.

BRIEFS

BEEF EXPORT REVENUE--It is estimated that beef export income will total 441 million cordobas in 1978. The latest quotation on Nicaraguan beef is $1.09 a pound, which is an indication of the acceptance of this product on the U.S. market. [Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0340 GMT 27 Dec 78 PA]

ROCA CALDERIO CHAIRS MEETING OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Session Opens

FL281442Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1432 GMT 28 Dec 78 FL

[Text] This year's second ordinary session of the People's Government National Assembly has opened at the Karl Marx Theater in this capital, chaired by Blas Roca Calderio, president of the maximum state organ.

Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers and first secretary of the PCC Central Committee; army Gen Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee; National Assembly Vice President Dr Raul Roa, member of the PCC Central Committee; and assembly Secretary Jose Aranaburo also are presiding over the session.

In his opening remarks, Blas Roca Calderio asked for a minute of silence in homage to Algerian President Houari Boumediene and Deputies Edelfina Garcia Martinez of Segundo Frente and Ernesto Salgado Campos of Mayari Municipality.

Development Plan Discussed

FL281657Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1632 GMT 28 Dec 78 FL

[Excerpt] A report of the planning, finance and budget committee in connection with the economic and social development single plan drafted by the Council of Ministers for 1979 was read [at the National Assembly]. The report calls for the incorporation and assimilation of new productive capacities as a continuation of the investments process that is being developed, and for an intensive and more effective use of material and human resources. It also calls for continued development of production for exports by incorporating new commodities which would diversify the offering of products in foreign markets.

The planning, finance and budget committee's report on the economic and social development single plan for 1979 calls for continued development of the policy of economic integration with CEMA member countries, particularly the Soviet Union.

The report also notes a gross investments growth higher than that planned for the entire economy, earmarking almost 70 percent [as heard] to the industrial, agricultural-livestock and transportation sectors. In view of this, the transportation sector will grow at a high rate, and this presupposes an efficient utilization of construction materials.

The report calls for work in more than 350 industrial projects and continued development of the construction plan of educational projects for public health and other social works.

Report on 1979 Budget

FL282031Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1634 GMT 28 Dec 78 FL

[Text] Estimated income for the 1979 state budget will exceed the previous year by 245 million pesos, it is pointed out in the report on the 1979 state budget bill which was submitted to the People's Government National Assembly this morning at this capital's Karl Marx Theater. The document states that the income increase will be allocated to dwellings, community services, education, public health and other socio-cultural and scientific activities.

Investments in the productive sphere are increased in the next budget in accordance with the rotational methods being used by the enterprises. Income derived at a local level, including the participation in taxes assessed on vehicles, restaurants and lodging for recreational purposes, will grow by 200.3 million pesos compared to this year. The document also states that the 1979 state budget is 190.4 million pesos higher than last year's.

The participation of the provincial and Isle of Pines special municipalities' budgets in the taxes will be raised by 234.2 million pesos. The report on the 1979 state budget bill was read by Deputy Wilfredo Espinosa Calero.

Penal Code Adopted

FI290037Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Dec 78 FL

[Text] With the adoption of the new penal code of laws, the first day of sessions of the People's Government National Assembly concluded this afternoon at 1810 hours. The assembly will resume its work tomorrow at 0900 hours with the discussion and approval of the bill on the creation of municipal museums. The deputies will also proceed to ratify law decrees and will hear a proposal on the reorganization of the National Assembly's permanent commissions. Tomorrow's work also includes reports on international activities of the assembly and delayed collection of electricity bills and studies conducted by the construction and construction materials commission.

CTC LEADERS MEET WITH SOCIALIST DIPLOMATS

FI281128Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Dec 78 FL

[Rosa Maria Hurtado telephone report]

[Text] A fraternal and friendly meeting between the Secretariat of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC) and diplomatic representatives of the socialist countries accredited to Cuba has been held at the CTC international hall. The meeting was presided over by Roberto Veiga, member of the PCC Central Committee and secretary general of the CTC. It was announced at the meeting that the 40th anniversary of the CTC will be commemorated in January 1979 in honor of the historic first labor congress which was held in 1939. Tribute also will be paid to the delegates who participated in the first labor and peasants in arms congress held 20 years ago at the Frank Pais second eastern front.

Roberto Veiga expressed CTC gratitude to the representatives of the Soviet Union, Poland, Romania, Hungary, Korea, GDR, Vietnam, Mongolia and Czechoslovakia for all the assistance given the CTC in the year just ending, especially everything concerning development of the 14th labor congress. After answering a number of questions made by the Soviet diplomats, Roberto Veiga concluded his remarks by reiterating the CTC's fraternal and friendly greeting to all countries of the socialist camp, especially to the USSR friends.

GDR'S MUECKENBERGER TO ATTEND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

FI281454Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1442 GMT 28 Dec 78 FL

[Text] Erich Mueckenberger, member of the Politburo of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany [SED], heads the GDR delegation to the festivities for the 20th anniversary of the triumph of the Cuban revolution. Mueckenberger, who also is chairman of the SED Central Control Commission, will leave for Havana tomorrow.

L.A. DELEGATES ARRIVE FOR ANNIVERSARY FESTIVITIES

FL281721Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Dec 78 FL

[Text] Many delegations invited to festivities marking the 20th anniversary of the triumph of the revolution have arrived in our country in recent days. The visitors include Arendo Alvarez and Rodney Arismendi, secretaries general of the Communist Parties of Argentina and Uruguay, respectively; (Moises Moreiro), secretary general of the Venezuelan Movement of the Revolutionary Left; and Juan Mari Bras, secretary general of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party.

Others who have arrived include (Alejandro Jauston Mercado), secretary general of the Mexican People's Party; Roberto Jaramillo, secretary general of the Revolutionary Socialist Party of Mexico; (Rene Alejandro Idrogo), member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Ecuador; and (Alejandro Valle Espinosa), member of the National Committee of the Mexican Worker's Party.

ICAP OFFICIAL MEETS WITH SRV'S DO MUOI

FL281736Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Dec 78 FL

[Text] Rene Rodriguez, president of the Cuban Institute for Friendship with Peoples (ICAP), has received Do Muoi, alternate member of the Vietnamese Communist Party Politburo. The senior Vietnamese leader heads a delegation of the party, National Assembly and Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, invited to the festivities for the 20th anniversary of the triumph of the Cuban revolution. The meeting between the Cuban leader and visitors was held in an atmosphere of great comradeship. They exchanged viewpoints on activities undertaken in both countries to strengthen their relations.

GUYANESE MINISTER TO ATTEND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

FL281339Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1320 GMT 28 Dec 78 FL

[Text] Vibert Mingo, Guyanese home affairs minister and member of the Executive Committee of the ruling People's National Congress, has left for Cuba, heading a delegation to festivities marking the 20th anniversary of the Cuban revolution.

GUINEA MILITARY DELEGATION ARRIVES

FL290149Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Dec 78 FL

[Text] At the invitation of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] Ministry, the military delegation of the Republic of Guinea has arrived in our country to participate in the festivities marking the 20th anniversary of the triumph of the revolution. The delegation is headed by Guinea National Defense Minister Alafay Kououma, who was met at the airport by Div Gen Senen Casas Regueiro, FAR first vice minister-chief of general staff, and other officers.

CUBA, USSR COORDINATE DEVELOPMENT PLANS

FL281123Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Dec 78 FL

[Text] A Cuban Government delegation headed by Miguel Figueras, first vice president of the Central Planning Board (JUCEPLAN), has held talks with a Soviet delegation in Moscow to coordinate plans for 1980-85 between Cuba and the USSR.

During talks with officials of the Soviet GOSPLAN, matters concerning economic integration between the two countries were discussed. The coordination of development plans is taking place in the fields of trade, sugar industry, citrus industry development, energy and fuels, pharmaceuticals and microbiology. According to reports, the two sides will continue the talks in May 1979.

CUBAN REVOLUTION EXAMINED IN MOSCOW CONFERENCE

FL282106Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1906 GMT 28 Dec 78 FL

[Excerpts] The scientific conference entitled "20 Years of the Cuban Revolution" has concluded in Moscow following the presentation of nearly 50 reports submitted by Cuban and Soviet specialists. The conference was attended by a Cuban delegation headed by Favio Grobart, member of the PCC Central Committee and director of the institute of history of Cuba's communist movement and socialist revolution. The scientific conference on the Cuban revolution, which will end today, began yesterday at the Hall of Ceremonies of the Institute of Marxism-Leninism of the CPSU Central Committee.

ALMEIDA HEADS DELEGATION TO BOUMEDIENE'S FUNERAL

FL281119Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Dec 78 FL

[Text] A party and Republic of Cuba Government delegation left for Algeria last night to attend the funeral of Houari Boumediene, president of the Republic, Council of the Revolution and Council of Ministers of Algeria.

The delegation is led by Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida Bosque, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the Council of State. It includes Armando Hart Davalos, member of the PCC Politburo and Council of State and minister of culture; Manuel Pineiro, member of the Central Committee and chief of its America Department; and Giraldo Mazola, Foreign Ministry director for North Africa and the Middle East.

The Council of the Revolution of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria has announced the funeral for tomorrow, Friday, at 1300 hours.

Arrives in Algeria

FL290053Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Dec 78 FL

[Text] Council of State Vice President Juan Almeida Bosque today arrived in the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria to attend the funeral for the late President Houari Boumediene. Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida, who is also member of the PCC Politburo, told reporters on arrival in Algiers that the Cuban people deeply lament the loss of the Algerian leader. Almeida added that Cuban President Fidel Castro mourns the death of Boumediene and is sorry he is not able to attend the funeral for his friend.

The Cuban delegation to the funeral for the Algerian president also includes Armando Hart Davalos, member of the Politburo and Council of State and minister of culture; Manuel Pineiro, member of the Central Committee and chief of its America Department; Giraldo Mazola, director of the Foreign Ministry's North Africa and Middle East Department; and Cuban Ambassador to Algeria Angel Raul Barzaga.

Shortly after its arrival in the Algerian capital, the Cuban delegation went to the Palace of the People where it paid posthumous respects to the late President Boumediene. Funeral services for the great Algerian leader will be held tomorrow, Friday.

UJC HOLDS ASSESSMENT MEETING IN ANGOLA

FL251755Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Dec 78 FL

[Text] Luanda--The Cuban Union of Young Communists (UJC) organization in Angola has held its fourth annual assessment meeting and established the future tasks of the organization in its internationalist work. More than 600 delegates from the 16 UJC provincial committees that exist in Angola exhaustively examined the results of the work done in 1978 and elected a new national bureau of the political organization.

The meeting was chaired by PCC Central Committee Secretariat member Jorge Risquet and Pedro Ross, PCC first secretary in the People's Republic of Angola.

The general report, which was discussed and approved by all the participants, describes the UJC work in Angola as satisfactory and proposes new and greater aims in the solidary assistance to that African country. The resounding victories of the Angolan revolution and its growing prestige in Africa and the world make us extremely happy and are a powerful incentive for us to continue making every effort toward the national reconstruction required by this country, states the report. The report stresses the work done by the first Ernesto "Che" Guevara Internationalist Brigade which, it adds, has developed by each day acquiring a greater degree of quality in its work.

Special recognition was given at the meeting to the effort being made by the youths and members [of the UJC] to fulfill production plans as well as public health and popular defense plans. With their active participation, it adds, they are making an outstanding contribution to the progress in public health and defense in that fraternal country.

A moment of unique emotion occurred when a group of youths who belong to the Che Guevara Internationalist Brigade and a group of Cuban and Angolan pioneers entered the meeting hall chanting revolutionary slogans and greetings to the meeting. Miguel Pacheco, member of the UJC national bureau, was elected UJC first secretary in the People's Republic of Angola. Omar Montero was elected deputy secretary.

Two messages were approved at the meeting addressed to the Cuban and Angolan chiefs of state, Fidel Castro and Agostinho Neto, respectively. In the messages, the UJC pledges to continue to maintain the principle of proletarian internationalism and contribute to the national reconstruction of the Angolan nation. We, the youths working in Angola, states the message addressed to Fidel, have learned your teachings which in these 20 years have prepared us for life. For that reason, today we practice internationalism without hesitation and we will continue fulfilling whatever tasks our country requires of us.

Lastly, the delegates unanimously approved a final resolution which notes that all UJC work in Angola in 1979 will be devoted to the political and ideological development of each member and to the fulfillment of PCC objectives concerning internationalist cooperation.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT CONCLUDES VISIT

FL281216Y Santo Domingo Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 28 Dec 78 FL

[Summary] Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez last night left this country for Jamaica. The Venezuelan Air Force plane took off at about 2200, after President Perez was seen off by President Antonio Guzman, Vice President Jacobo Majluta and other top officials.

CHURCH OFFICIAL INVITES POPE TO VISIT IN JANUARY

FL282307Y Santo Domingo Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 28 Dec 78 FL

[Excerpt] Santo Domingo's archbishopric today announced there is a possibility that Pope John Paul II will visit the country on 25 January. The pope would stay in the country until 26 January, according to an invitation extended to the pope by Monsignor Carlo Antonio Cardinal Veraz. The invitation was made on the occasion of the upcoming visit by the pope to the city of Puebla, Mexico, where he will attend the third general conference of the Latin American episcopate, scheduled to meet from 27 January to 12 February 1979.

ECUADOR

120,000 BARRELS OF GASOLINE TO BE IMPORTED

PA270357Y Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 Dec 78 PA

[Excerpt] It is reported from Guayaquil that although the country produces oil, the government will have to invest close to 50 million sucres to import gasoline at the high price prevailing on the international market, where a new price increase has just been approved. The Ecuadorean state petroleum corporation has been authorized to acquire 120,000 barrels of 83-octane gasoline at $15.85 per barrel. Total cost is $1.902 million, or 47.550 million sucres, which the country will have to spend. Ecuador has three refineries, one of them built in Esmeraldas recently, but it continues to import fuel at the current international price.

URUGUAY

NEW AGRICULTURE-FISHING MINISTER NAMED

FY290038Y Montevideo Radio el Espectador in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Dec 78 FY

[Excerpts] In a ceremony to be held at government house tomorrow at 1000, President Mendez will administer the oath of office to Jorge Leon Otero, a well-known rural producer, who was appointed agriculture and fishing minister. The new minister has a wide experience in the agricultural field, and he was recently president of the rural federation. It is not known yet who will be the agriculture and fishing under secretary.